

Army Releases April Suicide Data (DRAFT)

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WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 14, 2010) – The Army released suicide data today for the month of April. Among active duty Soldiers, there were 10 potential suicides: 1 has been confirmed as suicide, and 9 remain under investigation. For March, the Army reported 13 potential suicides among active duty Soldiers. Since the release of that report, 4 have been confirmed as suicides, and 9 remain under investigation. During April 2010, among reserve component Soldiers who were not on active duty, there were 6 potential suicides. For March, among that same group, there were 10 total suicides. Of those, 3 were confirmed as suicides and 7 are pending determination of the manner of death.

The Army is also announcing updated numbers for 2009 to now reflect 163 active duty suicides. This adjustment is based on subsequent review of additional case information by the Armed Forces Medical Examiner, resulting in the re-characterization of 2 cases initially deemed to be accidental deaths, now confirmed as suicides, and one case, previously pending determination, now also confirmed as suicide.

“So far for 2010 we are noticing an upward trend in the number of non-active duty suicides. There are some indications that our reservists are being doubly affected with additional stress by the challenging job market, recovering economy and uncertainty” said Chris Philbrick, Director, Army Suicide Prevention Task Force.

“The Army continues engagement efforts with a multitude of veteran and military service organizations, other government agencies, concerned citizens, and the total Army family to develop innovative and comprehensive strategies to help both our active and non-active duty Soldiers,” said Philbrick. “Given the complex nature of suicide, and the different environments our Soldiers serve in and are returning to, we welcome the opportunity to develop relationships and common approaches to this national challenge. Our Soldiers are representatives of our Nation.” he said.

Soldiers and Families in need of crisis assistance can contact Military OneSource or the Defense Center of Excellence (DCoE) for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury Outreach Center. Trained consultants are available from both organizations 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The Military OneSource toll-free number for those residing in the continental U.S. is **1-800-342-9647**; their Web site address is **www.militaryonesource.com**. Overseas personnel should refer to the Military OneSource Web site for dialing instructions for their specific location.

The Army's comprehensive list of Suicide Prevention Program information is located at **<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/default.asp>**.

Army leaders can access current health promotion guidance in newly revised Army Regulation 600-63 (Health Promotion) at: **http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/r600_63.pdf** and Army Pamphlet 600-24 (Health Promotion, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention) at **http://www.army.mil/usapa/epubs/pdf/p600_24.pdf**.

Suicide prevention training resources for Army Families can be accessed at **http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/training_sub.asp?sub_cat=20** (requires Army Knowledge Online access to download materials)

Information about the Army's Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Program is located at **<http://www.army.mil/csf/>**

The Defense Center for Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury (DCoE) Outreach Center can be contacted at **1-866-966-1020**, via electronic mail at **Resources@DCoEOutreach.org** and at **www.dcoe.health.mil**.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: **<http://www.afsp.org/>**

Suicide Prevention Resource Council: **<http://www.sprc.org/index.asp>**

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